

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An image printing apparatus, comprising:  
a fixing means which fixes a toner image transferred  
on a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure  
5 and heat,

a fixing control means for controlling the fixing  
means, and

an image printing control means for controlling  
printing of the toner image,

10 wherein the fixing means has:

an operation mode for starting energization of the  
fixing means after an initialization in the image printing  
control means is completed; and

15 another operation mode for starting energization of  
the fixing means before an initialization in the image  
printing control means is completed.

2. An apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein  
either one of the two operation modes is performed at the  
time when electric power source of the image printing  
20 apparatus is turned on or at the time of returning from a  
stand-by state which is a low power consumption mode.

3. An image printing apparatus, comprising:  
fixing means which fixes a toner image transferred on  
a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and  
25 heat,

a fixing control means for controlling the fixing  
means,

an image printing control means for controlling printing of the toner image, and

an interface mounted on the fixing means and capable of receiving data from a data input means,

5 wherein the fixing means has:

an operation mode for starting energization of the fixing means by making reference to the data received through the interface from a data input means after an initialization in the image printing control means is  
10 completed; and

another operation mode for starting energization of the fixing means before an initialization in the image printing control means is completed.

4. An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein  
15 either one of the two operation modes is performed at the time when electric power source of the image printing apparatus is turned on or at the time of returning from a stand-by state which is a low power consumption mode.

5. An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the  
20 data input means is provided independently of the fixing means and is allowed to connect with the interface through a communication cable.

6. An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data input means is mounted in an operation/display  
25 section of the image printing apparatus.

7. An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data inputted by the data input means includes pieces of

information in relation to at least a load individual operation mode, a process mode used in a manufacturing process, a service mode used upon an after-sale service.

8. An image printing apparatus, comprising:

5       fixing means which fixes a toner image transferred on a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and heat,

        a fixing control means for controlling the fixing means,

10       an image printing control means for controlling printing of the toner image, and

        an interface mounted on the fixing means and capable of receiving data from a data input means,

        wherein the fixing means has:

15       an operation mode for judging whether or not starting energization of the fixing means after an initialization in the image printing control means is completed; and

        another operation mode for judging whether or not starting energization of the fixing means before an  
20       initialization in the image printing control means is completed.

9. An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein either one of the two operation modes is performed at the time when electric power source of the image printing  
25       apparatus is turned on or at the time of returning from a stand-by state which is a low power consumption mode.

10. An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein

the data input means is provided independently of the fixing means and is allowed to connect with the interface through a communication cable.

11. An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein  
5 the data input means is mounted in an operation/display section of the image printing apparatus.

12. An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein  
the data inputted by the data input means includes pieces  
of information in relation to at least a load individual  
10 operation mode, a process mode used in a manufacturing  
process, a service mode used upon an after-sale service.